

REMARKS

The Examiner has repeated the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11, 12 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner continues to maintain that claims 15-18 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Neijzen (US 5,731,857) and Inoue et al. (US 6,172,723)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Neijzen in view of Inoue.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 recites, “a display panel which has a plurality of pixel sections provided in the form of a matrix, each pixel section including at least a pixel for displaying a first image and a pixel for displaying a second image,” and “a lens disposed in front of said display panel, said lens being constituted by a plurality of lens elements for refracting light emitted from each pixel to output the light in different directions, each of said plurality of lens elements corresponding to each pixel section, a direction of refracting light from each pixel for said first image being different from a direction of refracting light from each pixel for said second image.”

The Examiner maintains that element 27' of Figure 3a of Niejzen discloses the claimed pixel for displaying an image for a first viewpoint and element 27'' discloses the claimed pixel for displaying an image for a second viewpoint. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's

interpretation of a "viewpoint." In particular, the Examiner appears to interpret "viewpoint" as a certain point on the display panel. A "viewpoint," however, is a an actual optimum position at which a display panel is viewed or observed, where this position is at some distance from the display panel (common meaning). Thus, the "viewpoint" does not mean an actual "pixel." Accordingly, for clarification, Applicant has deleted the terms "viewpoint" from the claims.

In the July 5, 2006 Amendment, Applicant noted that in figure 3a of Neijzen, a lens corresponding to the pixel 27' is denoted by reference numeral 63' and a lens corresponding to the pixel 27'' is denoted by reference numeral 63'', where the number of pixels in Niejzen corresponds to the number of lenses. Accordingly, Applicant argued that when pixels and lenses are arranged in this manner, the effect of dividing images into one for a first view and one for a second view does not occur.

In response to the above argument, the Examiner maintains that the first and second viewpoints may be at the same point or overlapping viewing areas, since the viewpoints have not been specified as being different in the claims. Further, the Examiner maintains that it does not matter whether or not Niejzen discloses the effect of dividing an image, since it is not a requirement of the features of claim 1 (pgs. 5-6 of Office Action). As set forth in amended claim 1, however, the light refracted from the pixel for displaying a first image and the light refracted from the pixel for displaying a second image advance in directions that are different from one another. The pixel section is claimed as corresponding to the lens elements of the lens. Furthermore, the distance H between the surface of the reflection plate and the apex of the lens, and the focal distance f of the lens are different from each other, and this is based on the above-

described “division” of the light for the pixel displaying the first image and the pixel displaying the second image (i.e., differing directions of light refraction between the first and second image). That is, the lens element divides light outgoing from pixels of the pixel section into a different direction. In a range that fulfills this “division,” the distances H and f are different from each other.

Applicant submits that Neijzen fails to teach or suggest a lens having a plurality of lens elements, where the plurality of lens elements correspond to each pixel section, such that directions of refracting light from the pixels are different for a first image and second image. Rather, in Niejzen, the number of pixels corresponds to the number of lenses. Applicant submits that such structure cannot realize the differing directions of refraction of light for a first and second image. Since Inoue fails to cure the deficient teachings of Niejzen, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

B. Claims 11 and 13

Since claims 11 and 13 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In addition, claim 11 recites that a focal distance f of the lens is larger than a distance H between the surface of the reflection plate and the apex of the lens. The Examiner maintains that Neijzen discloses that the distance f is larger than the distance H . However, the lens of Neijzen (element 61 of Figure 3a) is coupled with a microprism 67. Therefore, the structure of the lens

of Neijzen is different from that of the lens of the present invention. Applicant submits that the teaching of element 61 of Neijzen coupled with the micropism 67 fails to teach or suggest formation of the lens recited in claim 11.

Furthermore, regarding claim 13, Applicant previously argued that neither of the cited references teaches that $-V/L + 1$ would be greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{2}$. In response, the Examiner maintains that to satisfy the equation, L must have a value that is at least double the value of V . Furthermore, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that the lens pitch is equal to the pixel pitch in Inoue. Applicant submits, however, that in the present invention, the claimed "lens" has a dividing effect of light, i.e., the light is refracted in different directions for a first and second image. In view of such feature, the pixel pitch is never equal to the lens pitch. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited references.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Neijzen, Inoue and Masuzawa (US 6,765,638)

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Neijzen, Inoue and Masuzawa.

A. Claim 2

Since claim 2 contains features that are analogous to the features of claim 1, and Masuzawa fails to cure the deficient teachings of Neijzen and Inoue, in regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 1.

B. Claim 12

Since claim 12 is dependent upon claim 2, Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency. In addition, Applicant submits that claim 12 is patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as set forth above for claim 11.

B. Claim 14

Since claim 14 is dependent upon claim 2, Applicant submits that claim 14 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency. In addition, Applicant submits that claim 14 is patentable over the cited references for at least analogous reasons as set forth above for claim 13.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 15-18 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/787,144

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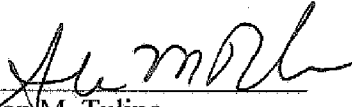
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